

What I Want to Leave My Grandchildren

My name is Corinne Miller. I'm a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a teacher, a patriot, a taxpayer, and a 25-year-long resident of Connecticut. And until very recently, I would never have believed it possible that in my lifetime the lawmakers of this state would be seriously considering any legislation that even remotely resembled SB 1076.

This drastic, overreaching, intrusive, excessive and liberty-breeching legislation would serve only to severely burden the good citizens of this state to such a degree as to in essence negate their rights to freely keep and bear firearms. It offers nothing in terms of punishing committers of violent acts, strengthening enforcement of existing laws against violent offenders, or keeping such offenders in prison for the entire duration of their sentences. Those who perpetrate acts or attempted acts of armed violence ought to reap the full consequences of justice. They should not be given suspended sentences that leave them on the streets so that they can seek out peaceful innocent citizens, citizens such as myself and my family. This should be at the core of any committee claiming to be seeking "public safety."

But instead, what does SB 1076 do to address these violent criminals? Nothing. Instead the bill seeks to install punitive measures against gun owners who have committed no crime. Its measures include but are not limited to the following:

- Mandates registration of all firearms (historically a precursor to confiscation)
- Requires individual ID cards for each firearm owned and the producing of said ID on demand to law enforcement (Can anyone say, "Where are your papers?")
- Outlaws the purchase of ammunition for family members
- Outlaws mail order purchase of ammunition for legally owned firearms
- Installs cost-prohibitive registration and renewal fees
- Bans commonly owned firearms, even everyday hunting and sporting rifles
- Bans standard-capacity magazines

In short, these measures would mark the beginning of the transformation of this once freedom-loving state into a Stalinesque wasteland. How can a committee claiming the name "Public Safety" ignore the need to deal with the true criminal element and instead seek to enact punitive legislation against the potential victims of violent crimes?

This is not the peaceful Connecticut in which I envisioned retiring with my extended family. This is a Connecticut governed by lawmakers seeking to inflict tyrannical control on its citizens. This is a Connecticut in which I will not abide. This is a Connecticut from which I, my extended family, and many like us will flee in favor of other states that still believe freedom is the greatest avenue to public safety.